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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/989,512

Applicant(s)

HANEY ET AL.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: 5th line from the bottom, the phrase “section, third cylinder section being of greater diameter than fourth cylinder section, the end of said third cylinder section joined to fourth cylinder” should probably read “section, said third cylinder section being of greater diameter than said fourth cylinder section, the end of said third cylinder section joined to said fourth cylinder section ...”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, it is unclear how the 4th cylindrical section can be within the 1st cylindrical section 109, if the 4th cylindrical section starts below the threaded section of the 3rd cylinder.

Claim 1, it is unclear if the threaded portion is part of the 3rd or 4th section.

Claim 7, it is unclear how the pipe assembly can have both triangular (claim 6 from which 7 depends) and rectangular threads at the same time.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bollfrass et al.

In regard to claim 1, Bollfrass et al. discloses (fig. 2) a pipe assembly connection comprising a seated connector having on its exterior a first cylinder section (section of outer tube where threads 126a are located) contiguous with a first lipped portion (sloped section close to where 122 is pointing), the first lipped portion being contiguous with a second cylinder section (vertical exterior pipe wall just below 112a) and on its interior a third cylinder section (where threads 124a are located) coupled directly to a fourth cylinder section (smaller interior tube portion starting just below where 120 is located on the fig.) wherein the fourth cylinder section has a smooth inner surface and, the third cylinder section being of greater diameter than the fourth cylinder section, the end of the third cylinder section joined to fourth cylinder section being threaded 124a; and a base 110 being cylindrical and having a threaded end 112 for threaded connection within the third cylinder section 124a of the seated connector.

In regard to claim 2, the second cylinder section is contiguous with a second lipped portion (exterior tapered portion which leads from the vertical portion just below 112a to the smaller exterior diameter pipe at the bottom of fig. 2).

In regard to claim 3, the second lipped portion is contiguous with a terminal section (the smallest diameter pipe at the bottom of fig. 2).

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In regard to claim 5, the first cylinder section is of wider diameter than the second cylinder section.

In regard to claim 7, the threaded end 112 of the base is squarely threaded.

In regard to claim 8, the end of the base 120 is beveled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bollfrass et al. in view of Singleton.

Bollfrass et al. discloses a pipe assembly as described above. Bollfrass et al. does not disclose that the threads on the base are triangular. However, Bollfrass et al. teaches choosing the threads to avoid interferences upon connection (see fig. 4 line 30-31), making connection easier. Singleton teaches using triangular threads on a pipe assembly connection in order to facilitate a backing off of the separate pipe components. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the threads of Bollfrass et al. to include triangular threads, as taught by Singleton, so that a pipe assembly connection could be created which could be easily separated when upon disassembly.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

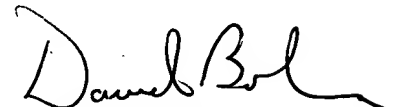
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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.


David Bochna
June 10, 2003